

## Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 SCA-01 ISO-00 /005 W

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P 311143Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5198

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, UK

SUBJECT: VISAS: MACHINE FACSIMILE SIGNATURE

REF: STATE 204146, LONDON 10382 AND 12487 (BEARER

STAMP)

1. EMBASSY PREPARED TO EXPERIMENT WITH A MACHINE  
FACSIMILE SIGNATURE SYSTEM IN THE ISSUANCE OF  
NONIMMIGRANT VISAS. HOWEVER, AS WE POINTED OUT  
INITIALLY IN LONDON 10382 IT WILL MEAN THAT WE WILL  
LOSE MANHOURS PROVIDED BY OFFICERS FROM OTHER SECTIONS  
OF THE EMBASSY WHO HAD CONSULAR COMMISSIONS BUT WHO ARE  
UNABLE TO PROVIDE PART-TIME VISA SKILLS OTHER THAN  
SIGNING AND SIMPLE VERIFICATION OF NIV'S SCREENED BY  
VISA OFFICERS. (THOSE CASES PRESCREENED BY SENIOR  
LOCALS WERE SCREENED AND SIGNED ONLY BY VISA OFFICERS.)  
THEREFORE, THE CONSULAR SECTION, AND PARTICULARLY THE  
VISA BRANCH, WILL BE FORCED TO KEEP UP AN INCREASING  
LEVEL OF WORKLOAD WITH AN ACTUAL REDUCED VOLUME OF  
MANPOWER RESOURCES.

2. OUR IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) CONTROL OF VISA MACHINES WILL BE SIMILAR TO  
THAT NOW PROVIDED FOR IMPRESSION SEALS (AND LOCKING UP  
DURING LUNCH AND NON-DUTY HOURS, AS NOW, OF THE PIATES  
WITH FACSIMILE SIGNATURES);

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(B) SIGN-IN SHEETS FOR EACH MACHINE HEADED BY

FIRST NUMBER OF COUNTING DEVICE ON PLATE. WHEN VISA CLERK OPERATOR IS CHANGED, LAST VISA NUMBER WILL BE ENTERED ON SHEET AND NEXT CLERK SIGNS-IN ETC. (THIS WILL BE PRIMARILY A PSYCHOLOGICAL CONTROL SINCE NO EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO RECONCILE VISA NUMBERS AND ISSUANCE FIGURES);

(C) CLERKS OPERATING MACHINE WILL BE INSTRUCTED ONLY TO STAMP VISA IF 257A PRESENTED SHOWING LEGIBLE SIGNATURE OR SIGNED LAST NAME OF OFFICER;

(D) USE OF SENIOR LOCALS TO PRESCREEN APPLICATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE DISCONTINUED SINCE THERE WILL BE NO VERIFICATION OF THE ISSUED VISA BY AN OFFICER. (THE NEED FOR A CHECK FOR CORRECTNESS OF THE VISA WILL BE LESSENED BY OUR USING ONLY THE ONE STAMP, SEE LONDON 12487.) IF SUFFICIENT MANPOWER AVAILABLE, VISA OFFICERS AND/OR SENIOR LOCAL CLERKS WILL SPOT-CHECK ISSUED VISAS BEFORE DISPATCHING. HOWEVER, MORE OF OUR MANPOWER WILL HAVE TO BE EXPENDED ON SUPERVISION OF VISA STAMPING AND WRITING.

3. WE ASSUME THAT DEPARTMENT WILL SEND PLATES, AND THAT THIS TRIAL WILL NOT BE USED AT OTHER UK POSTS. WE ALSO ASSUME THAT DEPT WILL BE UNDERSTANDING IF WE MUST REVERT TO HAND-SIGNED VISAS IF WE ARE UNABLE TO MAINTAIN A SATISFACTORY LEVEL OF OFFICER CONTROL DUE TO EXIGIES OF THE START OF OUR SUMMER PEAK SEASON (MIDDLE OF JANUARY) COUPLED WITH THE LACK OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL AS REQUESTED IN OUR CONSULAR PACKAGE (LONDON 8150 OF JULY 16).

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